## Sentiment of Populace Precipitated Balkan War

Which for the Past Five Decades Has Been a Deciding Factor in Europe.

(Copyright, 1912, by the Brentwood Company.) peace and war few, as a rule, take into account the importance of popular senis the one to which must be ascribed the entire responsibility for the outbreak of the war in the Balkans during the last week-a war which statecraft and la haute finance have striven in Russia, Austria and Germany have separately and collectively labored with Europe from the conflagration which has now commenced, realizing that it might spread far lefore extinction. But the means of diplomatic and economic pressure to which they have had recourse have proved as unavailing as their threats of armed force. The rulers of Bulgaria, Servia, Greece and Montenegro have given the great powers to understand that in throwing they were submitting to the irresistible will of their people and were confronted with the alternative of the loss of their thrones-nay, possibly of their lives. It is only with the utmost reluctance that they have embarked upon the arduous undertaking, forced upon them by their subjects, of driving the Turk out of Europe. War means not only the arrest of the trade, the industry and of the prosperity of their respective countries, but also spells absolute ruin to their national treasurles, besides closing to the latter every money market in Europe.

### UNPREPARED NATIONS.

Moreover, the eve of winter, which latter is always terribly severe on the Balkan mountain ranges, is the most untimely season of the year for military operations, and while the splendidly equipped and carefully trained troops of Bulgaria and Montenegro are ready for the fray, those of Servia and Greece are an unknown quantity. In fact, it is only since last summer that a French military mission, under the French General Eydoux, has been engaged in the complete reorganization of the Greek army and in training it on modern lines; while there is nothing to show that there has been any improvement in the Servian troops since they were so signally defeated by the Bulgarians under Prince Alexander at the battle of Slevenitza.

It is, therefore, under somewhat discouraging conditions that the soveroutheast of Europe have inaugurated the fray against Turkey, the more so that was purely as each of them has received warning nomic origin. from the great powers that under no ment among the lieges of Emperor Michelas and of King Charles would be so overwhelming in behalf of their coreligionists in the Balkans that they would be compelled to take part in the war, just as was the case in 1877.

### FORCE OF POPULAR WILL.

to take an active part in the conflict. by the Sultan's Bashibazouks in Bulpowers if vanquished by the Turks. overtaken by defeat nothing could pre- cause which they consider sacred. vent the Russians and the Rumanians

to punish the actual perpetrators.

deed, not of disciplined regiments, but fashion to inflame popular sentiment in much of by the late Emperor and by of those Asiatic irregular levies who, France against Germany, and con- the military authorities. He ex-

It Is This Unknown Quantity spurred by the most ferocious kind of Moslem fanaticism, won for themselves so unenviable a name, as Bashibazouks in the Christian provinces of Turkey thirty-five years ago. Abdul and all the remainder of Germany. He Hamid tolerated the massacres of Armenians not only in Asia Minor but even in Constantinople, and won for himself thereby the name of "The Great Assassin," bestowed upon him tional issues in Paris. by Gladstone. With his downfall and the inauguration of constitutional in discussing the contingency of forms of government at Stamboul it was expected that a more humane and civilized era had dawned. But before timent as a determining factor. Yet it the Young Turk party had been long in power there came the horrible massacre of the Christian population at Adana, the perpetrators of which remain unpunished to this day. The Servians and the Bulgarians were, vain to avert. Great Britain, France, therefore, justified in believing that the more recent atrocities of Kotchana and of Berana would also be permitted by unprecedented sincerity to preserve the great powers to pass without any thing beyond mere diplomatic remonstrance at Constantinople, and that it was only by having recourse to arms themselves that they could hope to

bers of their race and creed. So much for the war which has just been started in the Balkans. With regard to the struggle between Turkey down the gage of battle to the Sultan and Italy, which after raging for a lit-

avenge the death of the slain and pre-

vent further massacres of the mem-



FERDINAND OF BULGARIA.

tle over a year has been brought to a close within the last few days through the successful negotiations for peace at eigns of the Christian states in the Lausanne, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, in Switzerland, it was a war

### AN ECONOMIC WAR.

dreumstances would the latter permit True, it aroused much military en- in the streets of his capital because any territorial aggrandizement in the thusiasm among the Italian people once event of victory. At the same time it had been started. But if King Vic- the Bulgarian invasion of Macedonia. they have been notified that they could tor Emmanuel dispatched his troops to not rely upon any assistance or inter- invade the Turkish province of Tripoli, like King Nicholas of Montenegro and vention in their behalf if vanquished. it was in order to safeguard the exten-That these are the present intentions sive Italian commercial and financial out to the great powers of Europe that of the great powers concerned may be interests there and to prevent their his position was rendered not only intaken for granted. But whether they loss through the occupation of all the will find it possible to adhere to them is most important points of the dependa matter of doubt. Should the Turks ency and by their acquisition by Gerprove victorious, no matter how much many on lease from the Sublime Porte. the Russian and Rumanian government In one word, the motives that prompted And now these Balkan sovereigns, connight wish to hold aloof, popular senti- Italy to declare war upon Turkey were fronted by the same alternative as purely political and economic, and pop- Napoleon III in 1870, and by that ular sentiment played no role in the which King Milan of Servia faced tions, that the Japanese government land and Germany, there is no doubt matter; at any rate, in its inception.

of human life. There, too, the causes On that occasion it may be recalled were purely political and economic, and that Emperor Alexander II, despite his had it not been for the Yalu timber alleged autocracy, was driven into the concessions in Corea, in which Secrewar with Turkey against his will by tary of State Bezobrazoff, Admiral the irresistible will of his people. It Alexieff, the viceroy of Russia's poswas a war for which Russia was in no sessions in the Far Orient, and their sense prepared from a military or a associates were interested, and the refinancial point of view, and might have alization by the Japanese government ended in disaster at Pievna had it not of the great value which Corea would been for the assistance of King prove in an industrial and commercial Charles of Rumania, who had likewise sense as a colonial dependency of their been compelled by his people to abandon his policy of armed neutrality and served. As it was, the rank and file of the Russian army were in complete The latter had been started by the ignorance throughout the campaign Servians, whose resentment had been concerning the cause for which they aroused by the cruelties perpetrated were fighting, and it is doubtful was any more enlightened than his foe via had been warned to preserve the in this respect. At any rate, there was Peace at all costs and that she could both on the one side and on the other expect no assistance from the great a lack of that enthusiasm and spirit which men display when fighting either in defence of their native land or for a-

BISMARCK INFLAMES FRENCH. from coming to her rescue, regardless. Perhaps the most remarkable inof the views and wishes of their restance of the power of popular senti- hand in their defeat of Russia in the ment in deciding whether the gates of Manchurian war, and which forced If popular sentiment has been the Temple of Janus are to open or re- upon them a premature peace that aroused in the Balkan States to such main closed is to be found in the war robbed them of most of the fruits of an extent as to precipitate war during of 1870 between Germany and France. their victory. Finally, they see in the last week, it has been through the Bismarck wanted that war for the pur- Uncle Sam an obstacle to the realiza-\*holesale massacre of the peaceful pose of the creation of what is now the tion of their national dream of mastery Servians of Berane, near the Servian German Empire. He was perfectly of the Pacific. Their principal newsfrontier, by the Turks, while a short aware that most of the independent papers—those which reflect more closely time previously the Bulgarian inhabi- states of Germany were hostile at the real ideals of the people rather tants of the town of Kotchana had heart to Prussia and unwilling to conbeen tortured and killed in the most tribute in any way to her aggrandize- have from time to time given expresshocking fashion, not by Turkish ban- ment. He realized, too, that his own sion to these popular views about dits, but by officers and soldiers of the sovereign, the late Emperor William, America in the most unvarnished man-Ottoman army, the Sublime Porte sub- was anxious to preserve peace, and ner, and I can recall discussing their sequently refusing any redress for the that all the great financial interests of utterances of this character in a talk wholesale murder and rapine of which Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen and Frank- which I had with Field Marshal Lord its troops were guilty, declining even fort were averse to any international Kitchener-a friend of old Cairo dayscomplications calculated to disturb when he last visited New York. The scenes at Kotchana seem to have their relations with foreign markets. He was on his way back to England been particularly shocking-worthy, in- So he set to work in the most insidious from Japan, where he had been made

trived matters so cleverly that ere long he had the populace of Paris shouting "A Berlin!" ("On to Berlin!") and Napoleon III forced, with the utmost reluctance, by the will of his people, into declaring war upon Prussia and invading Germany. The French Emperor knew better than any one else that his army was unprepared for any war, even with Prussia by herself, still less, therefore, for a struggle with her realized that he was not in any condition of health in the summer of 1870 to assume the direction of military operations or even to determine great na-

### WAR OR A THRONE LOST.

Possessed of considerable political sagacity, he was able to appreciate that in declaring war upon Prussia and in invading Germany he was playing Bismarck's game by arousing popular sentiment in Southern German states to such an extent as to compel their unwilling rulers to throw in their lot with Prussia for the defence of Teuton soil. thus paving the way for the creation of a German empire, with the King of Prussia on the throne. In one word. Napoleon fully measured the consequences and the prospects of defeat. But, on the other hand, he also knew that public sentiment in France had been aroused to such an extent against Prussia that unless he yielded thereto and complied with the excited and restless demands of his subjects they would drive him then and there from the throne as incapable of championing and defending the national honor. He was face to face with the alternative of revolution at home or war with Germany. There were some few, but very few, chances that he might succeed in the latter. There was no chance of his saving his throne in the event of an insurrection at home. So he chose war, just in the same way as the sovereigns of the Balkan States have done in the case of Turkey during the last few days.

These Balkan monarchs, indeed, have shown a greater amount of courage and of fortitude than Napoleon III: for, whereas the anti-German craze in France broke out only two or three weeks before the declaration of the war of 1870, the profound resentment against Turkey has been seething in the Balkan States for years.

### RULERS WHO LOVED PEACE.

Indeed, it has been kept under control for so long only by the cleverness and the courage of these various rulers concerned, who have been obliged to sacrifice many ministers and cabinets and to submit to the constant danger of the loss of their thrones and of assassination because they declined to give way and persisted in maintaining peace. Ferdinand of Bulgaria, in particular, has had repeated attempts made upon his life, owing to his refusal to yield to the demands of his subjects that he would march his fine army into Macedonia to protect the Bulgarians of that Turkish province and their Christian co-religionists from Moslem cruelty, oppression and massacre. On two occasions conspiracies to kidnap his two boys when in their childhood were frustrated in the very nick of time, while at least half a dozen of his Cabinet ministers have been murdered they were believed to be obstacles to Ferdinand, like King George of Greece, Peter of Servia, has repeatedly pointed tolerable but untenable by Turkish misrule in Macedonia, and has urged their effective intervention at Constantinople. But it has been without avail. in 1876 and King George of Greece in The same may be said of the war be- 1896, have yielded to the clamor of sions of friendship for the United his desire for peace between the natween Russia and Japan eight years their subjects and have embarked States, but that the hostile articles in tions as is King George, and their ago, which resulted in such terrible loss upon war with Turkey rather than lose the Japanese press voiced popular sentheir thrones by internal revolution.

THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY. It is this potency of popular sentiment that must be taken into account to a far greater extent than has sively: "For the present I should say of both empires have likewise everyhitherto been the case in considering the future relations of this country is impossible to tell." This may be their own sake using every influence at with Japan and those of Great Britain with Germany. There is no prejudice in the United States against the people of Dai Nippen, and the authorities at power of the imperial government to England, which, fomented and to a Washington, irrespective of political party, are imbued with the friendliest feelings toward the island empire of Mikado and his ministers at Tokio cipitate a sudden crisis from which the Pacific. But while the new Mikado, must always be accepted here with there would be no issue but war. like his predecessor on the throne, reciprocates these sentiments, which are, moreover, shared by most of the leading statesmen at Tokio, the Japanese people at large entertain a greater degree of hostility toward the United States than for any other foreign power-even than Russia. Their pride is humiliated by the American policy which excludes them, like the Chinese, from these shores. They are filled with resentment by the conviction that it was the United States that stayed their

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pressed the belief, in reply to my questhat reserve.

As for the relations between Engrial government sufficiently strong to spective of political party, with the keep this public feeling under control?' possible exception of the German Sec-I asked. Kitchener paused for a mo- retary of the Navy, Admiral von Tirment and then replied, slowly and pen- pitz. The finance, trade and industry yes. How it will be in the future it thing to fear from war and are for construed to mean that the issue of their command to preserve peace. The peace or war between the United States | danger lies in an outbreak of popular and Japan depends mainly upon the sentiment either in Germany or in maintain a mastery over public feeling. great extent created by the irresponsiand the professions of amity from the ble press of both countries, may pre-

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